


ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/ Guardians,

9/11/23

Day of strike action by non-teaching staff on 16 November

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption to some school services as a result of industrial action notified by UNISON.

This action will consist of action short of strike as well as a full day of strike action on 16 November 2023. I am writing to outline the expected impact on our school.

How will strike action affect St. Francis' PS?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. A detailed risk assessment to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike has been conducted that considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum.

As the Principal, I and the Board of Governors, have determined that we will have inadequate staffing to operate safely, particularly at break and lunchtimes. For this reason, the school will be closed to pupils on 16/11/23.

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause disruption. I ask you, however, to be understanding. Strike action is very unusual and taking the step of strike action is not something that any member of the school staff undertakes lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike. The staff in our school are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of your children and I, along with the Board of Governors, feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential and very challenging jobs that they do.

Thank you for your understanding.

S. McKeown